



At the End Diversity.

A Project to integrate Volunteers with Migration Background into Activities of a Hospice Movement in Germany.



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Background:

In 1991, a Hospice Movement was founded as a charity in a German University City. The aim of this charity is to promote the hospice movement in the public. The support of volunteers helps to accompany very sick and dying people and to support families in their care and bereavement.

Over the years, different projects and changes to services have been developed (individual counselling, walking group, dancing group, gatherings at death cafes, discussion group for young widowed women and men, etc.). Co-operations with different institutions and services have been built. A special service has also been established to support grieving children, adolescents and young adults (Alles ist anders).

Objectives:

The obligations of a hospice movement are to accompany all people in their dying and bereavement. The existing volunteers need training about diversity and discrimination. A **new challenge** is **how we include our migrant population** as society rapidly changes. One way to involve those who have a migration experience themselves, is to seek their engagement too as volunteers.

Design:

This project 'At the End Diversity' financed since 2022, helps to support diversity in the hospice movement. It aims to establish a network of care and accompaniment for people by volunteers, including those with migration experience. This results in establishing connections between all involved to facilitate more access to hospice care.

...Zugänge
finden, Räume
schaffen, das
Lebensende
begleiten

Methods:

To evaluate how **people with migration experience** can participate as **volunteers** and engage in the hospice movement **to enhance diversity**.



Results:

Advice centres, neighbourhood offices, language mediation centres, migrant self-organizations and hospice/palliative care services have been established.

This requires openness to face an unfamiliar reality. This **open mind approach of care** helps to meet the new and greater needs of our more diverse everchanging society. It needs **flexibility** of all people involved. It **enhances resilience** and seeks to **discover underused or not at all used human resources**.

Conclusion:

It is a **challenging experience** to gain insight how suffering is integrated, faced and responded to by migrant people with different ethnic, linguistic and spiritual cultures. If it is respectfully done in an **openminded non-judgemental way**, it enriches all involved in the hospice movement. If this project is successful it will be established as a new regular hospice service.



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